

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2949

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24878

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY BANGKOK, DATED
SEPT 02, 1976, REPT TO YOU:

QUOTE

SONGKHLA 204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, PFOR, TH, MY

SUBJECT: THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER DEMARCATION

SUMMARY: THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER DEMARCATION TEAMS HAVE COMPLETED ABOUT 100 KILOMETERS, BUT ARE RUNNING INTO DIFFICULTY WORKING IN INSURGENT CONTROLLED AREAS. TEAMS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED TWICE SINCE JUNE. MALAYSIANS SAY THEY ARE PROVIDING MOST OF THE SECURITY FOR THE TEAMS AND COMPLAIN THAT THAI ARE NOT TAKING BORDER PROBLEM SERIOUSLY ENOUGH. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MALAYSIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AUGUST 31, SEVERAL MALAYSIAN OFFICERS FROM THE REGIONAL BORDER COMMITTEE (RBC) WORKING ON BORDER DEMARCATION SAID THAT JOINT TEAMS HAD COMPLETED ABOUT 100 KILOMETERS AND CONCRETE PILLARS HAD BEEN ERECTED MARKING THE BORDER. WHAT REMAINS IS LONG STRETCH (THEY SAID 500 KILOMETERS) WHERE TEAMS RUN THE RISK OF CLASHING WITH INSURGENTS. RBC OFFICERS SAID TEAMS HAD BEEN ATTACKED TWICE IN BETONG AREA SINCE JUNE.

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2. MALAYSIANS EXPRESSED IMPATIENCE WITH THAI, SAYING THEY COULD NOT BE RELIED UPON TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR DEMARCATION TEAMS AND THAT THE BULK OF RESPONSIBILITY HAS FALLEN TO MALAYSIAN BATTALION DETAILED TO DEMARCATION EFFORT, WHICH CAN ONLY OPERATE ON MALAYSIAN SIDE OF BORDER. AT NIGHT BOTH THAI AND MALAYSIAN TEAMS STAY ON MALAYSIAN SIDE OF BORDER IN BATTALION CAMP.

3. COLONEL HASSAN, MALAYSIAN MEMBER OF RBC, COMPLAINED THAT THAI FREQUENTLY MADE COMMITMENTS TO MOUNT JOINT CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG BORDER TO FACILITATE DEMARCATION BUT OFTEN CANCELLED THEIR PARTICIPATION WITH MINIMAL PRIOR NOTIFICATION. EXCUSE WAS USUALLY THAT TROOPS WERE NEEDED ELSEWHERE TO SUPPRESS BANDITS. HASSAN SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT SOUTHERN BORDER PROBLEMS HAD LOW PRIORITY WITH THAI COMPARED TO LAO AND CAMBODIAN BORDERS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT SECURITY ALONG THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER WAS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO MALAYSIA.

5. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, HASSAN SAID THAT MALAYSIAN SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THAI POLICE TO DETERMINE IF NARONG KITTAKACHORN HAD ENTERED PENANG DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 23-30. HE SAID CHECK SHOWED NO TRACE OF NARONG.
SIGNED HAMILTON UNQUOTE.
BURKE

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